



For IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED,
THROUGH FAITH—AND THIS NOT FROM
YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.
EPH 2:8-9

December 13th, 2015
Third Sunday of Advent



Rejoice in the Lord Always!

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH & LEARNING CENTER

5500 STUMBERG LANE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70816

CHURCH: 225-752-5503

PASTOR STEVEN HAHM

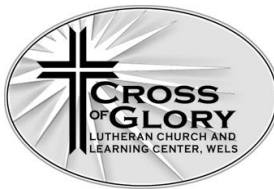
PASTOR@CROSSOFGLORYLUTHERAN.COM

WWW.CROSSOFGLORYLUTHERAN.COM

(225) 752-5503

Steven Hahm, pastor

pastor@crossofglorylutheran.com



5500 Stumberg Lane

Baton Rouge, LA 70816

www.crossofglorylutheran.com

Welcome! We are glad you are here with us today. Our service today follows an order of worship which places the spotlight on God's Word and its central message of peace through Jesus. You can follow the outline of the service in this worship folder. The hymn numbers refer to the red hymnal: Christian Worship (CW) or the blue hymnal: Christian Worship Supplement (CWS).

Restrooms: The women's and men's restrooms are located in the Gathering Room (lobby) of the church. There are additional restrooms located in the Fellowship Hall.

Cry Room: We do not mind a fussy child or an instructing parent. But for parents who would like a quiet place to be with their child, we have a cry room with a one-way window into the sanctuary. The entrance is located in the Gathering Room. The worship audio can be heard in this room.

Prayer Requests: If you have a special prayer you would like included in today's Prayer of the Church, please fill out the prayer request form on the small table in the Gathering Room.

Holy Communion: We offer classes (Basic Bible Christianity) for those desiring to take the sacrament. If you are a newcomer, please take these classes before communing or speak with our pastor.



ORDER OF SERVICE: ADVENT WORD & SACRAMENT

ADVENT GATHERING RITE

The congregation sings the refrain continuously. While the congregation repeats the refrain, the cantor sings the verses.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shout for joy, for the Lord has come. | 2. Oh fear not for God has come. |
| 3. Oh rejoice in the Lord, and come. | 4. In your midst is the Lord, so come. |
| 5. For the Lord who is near will come. | 6. He will baptize in Spirit and come. |

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: From the Christ who was, who is, and who is to come, grace, light and peace be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

M: My friends, in this Advent season, let us be mindful of our need for salvation and prepare the way of the Lord with willing hearts. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty and Merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not always loved you with all my heart. I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. In what I have done, and what I have left undone, I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them and beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

The congregation sings the refrain while the minister sings:

1. Lord have mercy upon us and come.
2. Christ have mercy upon us and come.
3. Lord have mercy upon us and come.

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The congregation sings the refrain again.

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp."¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 130



M: Out of the depths I cry to 'you, O Lord; *

C: O Lord, 'hear my voice.

M: Let your ears be at'tentive *

C: to my cry for 'mercy.

M: If you, O Lord, kept a re'cord of sins, *

C: O Lord, 'who could stand?

M: But with you there is for'giveness; *

C: therefore 'you are feared.

Refrain

M: I wait for the Lord and in his Word I 'put my hope. *

C: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the 'morning.

M: O Israel, put your hope 'in the Lord, *

C: For with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full re'demption.

C: Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son *

and to the Holy 'Spirit,

as it was in the be'ginning, *

is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham."⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."¹⁰ "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.¹¹ John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely-- be content with your pay."¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.



CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY.....Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (CW #15)

SERMON: Philippians 4:4-7

Theme: “Finding Your Merry this Christmas”

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

THE ANNUNCIATION AND MAGNIFICAT

Cantors: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice! O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

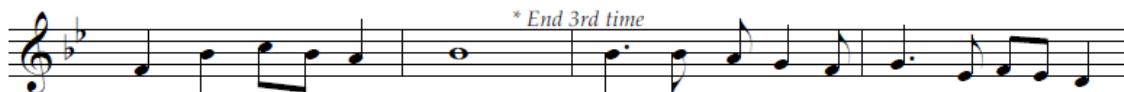
The congregation immediately joins to sing the Magnificat.



1. & 3. My _____ soul pro - claims your great ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might y down from their thrones, and up



spir it re joic es in you, You have looked with love on your ser vant - here, and
lift ed the hum ble of heart. You have filled the hun gry with won drous things and



blessed me all my life through. Great and might y are you, O Ho ly One,
left the weal thy no part. Great and might y are you, O Ho ly One,



strong is your kind ness ev er more. How you fa vor the
strong is your jus tice, strong your love. As you prom ised to



weak _____ and low ly one, hum bling the proud of heart.
Sa rah _____ and A bra ham, kind ness for ev er more.

OFFERING

The members of Cross of Glory are happy to support its ministry with their financial gifts. If you are visiting us today, do not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.
- C:** **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his wondrous birth became our Brother, taking on human flesh to live in righteousness before God and to become obedient even to death on a cross. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*SANCTUS*)



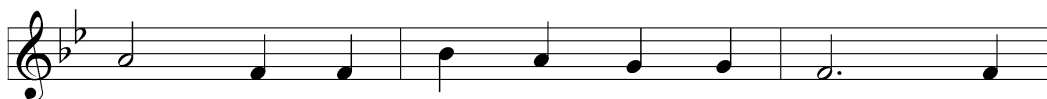
1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be don on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION (Hymn #19 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?)

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

- M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- M:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.
- C:** **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN..... “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (CW # 7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEASURE OF LOVE

Last Sunday’s Attendance: Worship – 35; Communion - 19.
Offerings to the Lord: General Fund - \$871.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday (12/16):	6:30 p.m.	Advent Evening Prayer Service
Thursday (12/17):	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Saturday (12/19):	6:30 p.m.	Church Christmas Party
Sunday (12/20):	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	11:30 a.m.	Choir Practice